

Recommendations

Develop collaborations with medical eye care specialists at both the individual and group levels. At the local level DSB personnel need to develop individual relationships with providers. DSB personnel need to make presentations to various professional organizations such as the NC Optometric Society, NC Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, and the like. The purpose of these contacts and presentations is to solicit referrals.

Continue to monitor the etiology of blindness and low vision at referral to provide staff training to meet the needs of clients with various conditions.

Facilitate clients starting and joining support groups relative to their eye conditions. This would benefit clients through increased understanding of their condition and support. Of possible benefit to DSB is that clients may “spread the word” about services.

Employment Outcomes

In this economy it has been hard for me to find a job. Even though, they (DSB) have given me the tools on how to handle my disability. I still cannot find a job. DSB Client

Research Question 4: What are the differences in employment outcomes of clients of who are blind or visually impaired from different racial/ethnic backgrounds?

This section addresses employment outcomes in two areas: employment rates and earnings.

Both employment and wages in the state of North Carolina have fallen over the last year (U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009). The minimum wage in North Carolina is